

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 RSR-01 OIC-04 SAJ-01 /144 W

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R 221254Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7003

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T OSLO 3067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA NO KN KS

SUBJ: KOREA AT THE 28TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: NORWEGIAN VIEWS

REF: (A) OSLO 3066 (NOTAL) (B) OSLO 3057 (C) STATE 163147

(D) OSLO 2816 (E) OSLO 2814

BEGIN SUMMARY. ANOTHER ROUND OF PROBING ON THE KOREAN ITEM HAS ELICITED AGREEMENT FROM ONE NORWEGIAN OFFICIAL THAT A GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF UN COMMAND WOULD NOT AT PRESENT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DESIRED END OF GREATER STABILITY IN KOREA. WE CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT WE CANNOT ASSUME THE NORWEGIANS WILL IN THE END OPPOSE A RESOLUTION HOSTILE TO THE UN COMMAND. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE UN COMMAND AND THE STATUS OF US FORCES IN KOREA, FOR OUR CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS WITH NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS HERE. END SUMMARY.

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1. IN MEETING AUGUST 21 WITH TOM VRAALSEN, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S UN AFFAIRS DIVISION, TO GO OVER KEY ISSUES AT 28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON BASIS OF REF C, EMBOFFS ATTEMPTED TO PRESS FOR A FURTHER INDICATION OF PRESENT NORWEGIAN THINKING ON KOREAN QUESTIONS. REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEELE'S OSLO CONVERSATIONS (REF E) AND THE AIDE MEMOIRE GIVEN TO UNDER SECRETARY SVENNEVIG BY THE DCM ON AUGUST 20 (REF B), WE NOTED THAT US AND NORWAY SEEM TO BE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND POSES THE KNOTTIEST POTENTIAL PROBLEM FOR THIS FALL AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NORWAY WILL OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO HAVE THE UNGA CALL FOR ITS ABOLITION.

2. IN RESPONDING, VRAALSEN SPOKE OF THE PREVIOUS DAY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH ROK PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HAM AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SOUTH KOREAN VIEW THAT THE UN COMMAND COULD NOT BE ABOLISHED UNTIL ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR ROK SECURITY. NORWAY'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE, HE SAID, IS TO WORK TO PROMOTE PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE PENINSULA; A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ABOLISH THE UN COMMAND THIS YEAR WOULD NOT, HE CONTINUED, SERVE THAT END. HE QUALIFIED THIS SEEMING EXPRESSION OF AGREEMENT WITH OUR POSITION, HOWEVER, BY NOTING (A) THAT THE SITUATION COULD CHANGE BEFORE THE KOREAN ITEM IS DEBATED IN LATE NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER AND (B) IN PARTICULAR, THAT IF BOTH KOREAS SHOULD BE ADMITED TO THE UN THE GUARANTEES OF THE UN CHARTER WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN KOREA.

3. VRAALSEN SAID HE STILL RETAINS SOME HOPE THAT NORTH KOREA, EITHER BECAUSE OF A REALIZATION THAT IT STANDS ALONE ON THIS QUESTION OR BECAUSE OF STRONG PRESSURES FROM OUTSIDE, MIGHT DECIDE TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP ALONG WITH THE ROK; HE IS NOT, HOWEVER, AS OPTIMISTIC ON THAT SCORE AS HE WAS EARLIER IN THE YEAR (CF. REFS D AND E).

4. COMMENT. VRAALSEN'S PRELIMINARY REMARKS RE THE SECRET

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UN COMMAND ARE ENCOURAGING, BUT WE CAUTION THAT NORWEGIAN OPPOSITION TO A RESOLUTION HOSTILE TO THE UN COMMAND IS BY NO MEANS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. AS THERE ARE NO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS IN CIRCULATION AS YET, THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE UNLIKELY TO ADOPT A POSITION AT THEIR END-OF-AUGUST MEETING. AN ULTIMATE NORWEGIAN DECISION WILL BE CONSIDERABLY INFLUENCED BY THE RECOMMENDATIONS SENT FROM NEW YORK BY VRAALSEN

AND AMBASSADOR AALGAARD, WHO JOINTLY CONSTITUTE A SIZEABLE PART OF NORWAY'S FAR EASTERN EXPERTISE (AND WHOSE INFLUENCE WILL BE EVEN GREATER IF A LABOR GOVERNMENT RETURNS TO POWER IN OCTOBER). VRAASLEN SERVED WITH AALGAARD IN PEKING AND THEY SHARE, WE FEAR, A SOMEWHAT IDEALISTIC FAITH IN THE GOODNESS OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE ASIAN COMMUNIST REGIMES. THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO NORTH KOREAN ARGUMENTS THAT ABOLITION OF THE UN COMMAND IS THE SINE QUA NON FOR FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THERE WILL, OF COURSE, BE COUNTERBALANCING PRESSURES IN OSLO, AND IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE NORWEGIANS AS OUR OWN THINKING EVOLVES. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION TO SUPPLEMENT THAT IN STATE 162623 ON THE RESIDUAL FUNCTIONS OF THE UN COMMAND AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF US FORCES IN KOREA.

4. LAST YEAR NORWAY ABSTAINED ON THE KOREAN ITEM, BUT ONLY BECAUSE THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WAS BEING PUSHED IN BOTH DIRECTIONS BY HIS ADVISORS, REFUSED TO TAKE A DECISION WHILE NORWAY'S COMMON MARKET DEBATE WAS UNRESOLVED. IT MAY BE THAT ABSTENTION WILL BE THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR THIS YEAR AS WELL.
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